

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Joaquin Miller says that Bryant was the second greatest poet that America ever produced. Joaquin Miller being the first, of course.

—Bret Harte, it is said, can command a higher price for his work than any literary man in the metropolis. *Scribner's Monthly* has paid him as much as \$100 a page, and like a sensible man he would take more if he could get it.

—The *Nation* begs a correspondent to "excuse us for saying that one minute of Longfellow's 'Rain in Summer' takes us further out of doors than all Tennyson's highly finished and (we admit) most admirably picturesque landscapes, and seascapes and sky-scapes."

—Poor Artemus Ward, with all his cleverness, was a very modest fellow. He used to say privately, "Nobody knows any better than myself how little I amount to. But if people insist on being such fools as to pay me handsomely for playing the fool, I'm not such a fool as not to take the fools' money. A fool and his money, according to the proverb, are soon parted, and, according to the fact, I am the parter."

—Asa Packer, of Mauch Chunk, is one of the wealthiest men in Pennsylvania, or indeed in the Republic. He is worth at least \$25,000,000, and began life without a penny as the driver of a canal-boat on the Lehigh Canal. His immense fortune came mostly from the purchase, at low rates, of coal lands in the region of his present place of residence—the lands advancing enormously within a short time after he bought them.

—"To look at Mr. Proctor, the Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society of London," says a letter writer, "you would never suspect the existence of scientific knowledge in his head. He parts his glossy black hair in the middle; his face is flushed, as though he revelled in plum pudding, good ale, and plenty of sleep. How a man with so short a neck and such broad shoulders can gaze at the stars will ever remain a mystery. In manner he is agreeable, easy, and pleasant, and he leaves a good impression wherever he goes."

—The *London Academy* says: "As our readers have long been expecting a series of articles on Junius, by the Lord Chief-Justice of England, we beg to inform them that, although the work has been interrupted by the Geneva Arbitration and the terrible Tichborne case, it has not by any means been relinquished. A good deal has already been written, and the Lord Chief-Justice has spent many hours, won from his laborious weeks, at the British Museum in collecting evidence. The services of an eminent expert in handwriting have also been called into requisition."

—In the Washington correspondence of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* occurs the following paragraph, alluding to one of the clever young ladies who are perverting the capital this winter: "Miss Amy Charlton is another English visitor, who, by her frank, natural manner and warm admiration for our city and society, has made a permanent and lasting impression. She is a splendid type of a strong, healthy, perfectly developed woman. Our girls would be rather mortified if their hands, feet or waists were as large; but the strength portrayed in these is only an indication of the strong, vigorous character and warm heart that goes out to all who are congenial. I don't believe that Miss Amy Charlton will ever be troubled with nervousness and hysterics. Then, too, she knows so much more than our girls. She speaks five languages, she talks about authors and their works, besides a great deal of general information about all the world."

School and Church.

—The Boston Homeopathic Medical Society have appointed a committee to consider the project of asking the churches to take up a collection one Sunday in the year for the different hospitals. This plan has been successful in England.

—The Old South Church, Worcester, Mass., has voted by a majority of sixty-seven against twenty-nine to add four ladies to its corps of deacons. The resolution which was adopted says: "In availing herself of the help and counsel of godly women, this church seeks to recognize and imitate the policy and usage of the Congregational Church of the New Testament."

—Miss Margaret Belden, late of Norwalk, Connecticut, bequeathed to St. Paul's Church, Norwalk, \$16,000; the Missionary Society of the Diocese of Connecticut, \$5,000; Nashotah Mission of Wisconsin, \$10,000; trustees of the Aged and Infirm Clergy and Widows' Fund, one-third of the residue of the estate; and the Berkeley Divinity School at Middletown the remaining two-thirds. Both these amounts will be very large.

—According to Bishop Wiley, New England Methodism has made great advances in the last half century. He said that fifty years ago there were only 21,000 in all the six States, but since that time the number had multiplied six times. The denomination now has in that part of the country \$10,000,000 worth of church property, 116,000 children in its Sabbath-schools, 1,000 preachers, whose preaching reaches at least 300,000 people through 1,300 churches. But for some reason Methodism has not grown in that direction during the past year, a fact which the Bishop could hardly explain satisfactorily.

—There is an interesting trial in progress at Kalamazoo, Mich. The Hon. Charles E. Stuart of that city has sued the Board of Education, in order to prevent its collecting a tax for the support of the High School. His plea is, that schools in which languages other than English are taught cannot be legally maintained by city or State. This will probably be a test case. If the courts of final appeal sustain Mr. Stuart, we may expect to see rate-tax-payers in other cities and towns trying to enjoin the Boards of Education from paying for instruction in German in the public schools, and in that and other languages in the High School.

—The Rev. P. A. Hanaford, in his historical sketch of the First Universalist

Church of New Haven, Conn., says: "Less than half a century ago to be a Universalist was to be accounted an infidel. The name was synonymous with Atheist. Few dared to attend a religious gathering of this people, and, among that few, women were afraid and ashamed to be seen. She who dared brave public opinion, so far as to attend, was counted 'strong-minded,' and her religion, if not her morals, questioned." There was a time when no hall could be obtained in New Haven, and the meetings were held on the green, the preacher standing on the steps of the State-House.

Science and Industry.

—More than half a million lives are now insured by the two hundred and odd companies engaged in that business.

—A machine which performs the operation of rolling, sowing and harrowing simultaneously has been invented in Dublin.

—Philadelphia leads all other cities in the molasses and sugar trade. Last year she imported 104,000 hogsheads of molasses, against 100,000 for New York and 43,000 for Boston.

—Two clever-men in Wilmington, Ohio, the other day, receiving permission to show what they could do in cutting up hogs, actually dismembered 100 good average animals in thirty minutes. They now offer to perform the same feat in twenty-five minutes.

—San Francisco has advanced in population the past year from 180,000 to 200,000. To accommodate this rapid increase 1,500 new houses have been built, which cost upwards of \$5,000,000, while for the coming year buildings have already been projected which will cost \$7,000,000.

—A lens for a cheap microscope can be made by igniting one end of a wheat or hay straw, and allowing the entire spear to consume gradually. Then heat the end in the blue flame of a burner. A solid globe of glass will be formed from the silic, which has quite remarkable microscopic properties.

—A French observer states that, by feeding silk-worms on vine-leaves, he has obtained worms of a magnificent red; and where lettuce leaves were the food, the product was of a deep emerald-green color. By thus varying the food of the worm, M. Delidon de Saint-Gilles, of Vendee, has been enabled to obtain silk the natural colors of which were a beautiful yellow, green and violet. In view of results so important, the question is at once suggested, Will the worms thrive upon this new diet? for, if so, then this discovery may justly be regarded as one of the greatest importance in this department of the applied arts. Should our native silk-growers be inclined to attempt the experiment, it is well for them to know that the silk-worms must be fed on mulberry-leaves when young, and supplied with the vine-lettuce or nettle-leaves during the last twenty days of the larva-stage of their life. It now only remains for some patient worker to compound an artificial food, which shall combine the nutritive properties of the mulberry-leaf with the coloring power of the others, and thus at once dispense with the complicated and delicate dyeing process now in use.

Haps and Mishaps.

—A party at Fargo, Minn., were examining a revolver, when it accidentally exploded, the ball striking the heart of C. J. Colson, killing him instantly.

—A boy in a Dixon, Ill., file factory poured some hot lead into a damp mold a few days ago, causing an explosion, resulting in the loss of both of his eyes.

—A woman in Osage county, Kansas, tied a child in a chair near the fire. She left the house for a few minutes, and when she returned she found the child roasted.

—They had a dead-head suicide at La Crosse, Wis., recently. A man entered a store and inquired the price of a pistol, and while examining the weapon he slipped in a cartridge and blew his brains out.

—During a fight in Stillwater, Minn., Robert Palmer had his thumb bitten half off. The hand swelled and gangrened until its amputation became necessary. In the operation Dr. Reiner cut himself slightly on the thumb, and the poison so virulently inoculated his system that he will die.

—A locomotive engineer named Naughton has been so vigorously prosecuted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for having burned a live dog in a locomotive furnace, that a Cincinnati judge has fined him \$100, and sentenced him to six months in the work-house.

—While two boys named John Young and Thomas Riley were out hunting near Pinckneyville, Perry county, Ill., they agreed to shoot at each other. Advancing to within twenty-five steps Young shot Riley, a load of sixty squirrel-shot entering his breast. Both were under the influence of liquor.

—A lady at Lakeland, Minn., wishing to make biscuit for supper, didn't know whether she had any cream-tartar or not. She had something which looked like that substance, and, to make sure, invited the members of the house to taste. A young man, a boarder, touched his tongue to the powder, remarked that he didn't think it was what she wanted, and then went into convulsions. It was poison—arsenic—and a doctor was necessary to save the young man's life.

—A distressing accident occurred recently in Daviess county, Mo. Mrs. Margaret Eldridge, a widow woman, had been washing, and had taken a kettle of boiling water from the fire and left it on the floor. Her little girl, only eighteen months old, was playing about the floor, and during her mother's momentary absence, climbed a chair and began playing in the water with a stick, and in some way fell in. Its cries instantly brought the mother, who snatched it from the water, burning her own hands terribly in so doing, but too late to save its life.

—The Solomon City (Kansas) *Newspaper* says that last summer a Swede girl in Salina, was, while going to a neighbor's house, bitten by a polecat. No immediate result following, the circumstance was nearly forgotten. A short time since the girl complained of a pain in the chest, and a physician was called in who pronounced it a simple "ailment" that would pass off in a few days. The next day she was seized with paroxysms and it required three strong men to hold her. It was then evident that hydrophobia was doing its horrid work. Morphine was administered to alleviate the suffering girl's agony, who died the next day.

—A distressing calamity occurred near Atlanta, Mason county, Mo., a few days ago. Lewis Lyda, a respectable farmer residing near Behour Ford (East Fork Chariton), accompanied by his wife and child, started in a wagon to visit their parents. The water was high and current rapid, and while crossing the ford, it is supposed the force of the water lifted the wagon-bed, drawing the king-bolt, the horses proceeding with the front wheels, leaving the remainder engulfed in the stream and the unfortunate occupants to struggle in the water and among the ice. Mr. Lyda seized the child and called to his wife to cling to him; but, either overcome with fright, or driven from him by the ice and water, she was swept away and lost.

Foreign Notes.

—The carpet manufacturers of England and Scotland have agreed to advance the wages of their workmen ten per cent.

—The hardware factories in England have lately received large orders for hoes, to be used in giving employment to the famine-stricken people in India.

—During the Khiva expedition the Russian soldiers were fed chiefly on biscuits composed one-third of rye flour, one-third of powdered beef, and one-third of sauerkraut. The soldiers liked this food and their good health is attributed in great part to the use of it.

—The year of 1873 was the first in which the imports of foreign and colonial merchandise into Great Britain exceeded the value of £1,000,000 sterling a day. The total is stated at £370,380,472. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures averaged nearly £700,000 a day, the total being £255,073,336.

—Within thirty miles of London the lavender fields have introduced an extensive and recognized industry, and there is annually produced in England alone sufficient oil from the plant to manufacture 30,000 gallons of spirits of lavender, besides a large quantity used in the production of other perfumes with more pretentious names. The harvest-time of the lavender is in the early part of August.

—False diamonds figure conspicuously in the shop windows of the Palais Royal. Indeed, the making of diamonds is an increasing business in Paris, and they approach very near to the reality in appearance. There are several recipes given for the manufacture of sham diamonds, but as they will scarcely be of domestic utility, we refrain from detailing the amount of sand, potash, minium, borax, arsenic, white-lead, etc., etc., necessary to make a respectable article.

—Queen Victoria is gradually recovering from the grief of her widowhood. For a long time after the death of the Prince Consort she could not bear to touch a piano, nor did she even allow one to be opened in her presence. Now she has resumed her old accomplishment, and plays duets with her last remaining daughter, the Princess Beatrice, and Gounod has arranged some of the music of Jeanne d'Arc as a duet for the Queen and her daughter.

—An Eastern correspondent of the *Chicago Advance*, who has been in Nablous, the modern name for Samaria, Palestine, says that a venerable journal is carefully preserved there, in which appears the following entry in the handwriting of a Samaritan high priest named Shabbot: "In the year from Adam 4,281, in the nineteenth year of my pontificate, Jesus, the son of Mary, was crucified at Jerusalem." It is said that the old journals of the priests of the Samaritan synagogue are still in existence, dating back to fifty or sixty years before Christ was born. There is nothing improbable about the story. The priests of the Jews, like the monks of the middle ages, were the recorders of passing events, and the crucifixion of Jesus was a notable event, not only throughout Judea but the whole Roman Empire.

Odds and Ends.

—Upon the "outer wall" of a female college in Ohio, the other evening, was discovered, conspicuously displayed, the sign, "Domestic Sewing Machines." Some of those specimens of total depravity known as college students did it.

—The young scamp who robbed a church last month has addressed a note of condolence to the members of the congregation, advising them to lay up treasures where moth and rust do not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal.

—It is very foolish to be always reading and making notes and trying to remember things. How much better to know as little as possible, and so, in every piece of information that is given you, to find the charm of novelty, which is the charm of existence.

—The late Bishop of Lichfield was not more noted for piety than for readiness of repartee. He was once traveling in a railway carriage, when a blustering man exclaimed, "I should like to meet that Bishop of Lichfield, I'd put a question to him that would puzzle him." "Very well," said a voice out of another corner, "now is your time, for I am the Bishop." The man was rather startled, but presently recovered, and said, "Well, my lord, can you tell me the way to heaven?" "Nothing easier," answered the Bishop; "you have only to turn to the right, and go straightforward."

—The *Commerce* (Mo.) *Dispatch* says. A young man, an acquaintance of ours was some three weeks ago visiting some friends at Cape Girardeau. While there, a frolicking young lady of the city and himself engaged in a scuffle. To extricate herself from his fearful grasp she was compelled to bite him. The bite was only sufficient to start the blood a little, and he brushed it off, deeming it more a work of affection than evidence of any mal a pensee. For a day or two his hand was exposed to the cold air, and the result was he was compelled to go to bed and nurse a swelled and inflamed arm. For four long weeks he was compelled to remain there, and in the moments of his delirium, he would exclaim: "I would ten times rather be bit by the rattlesnake that bit the man at the Cape fair, than be bit by a woman!"

—Henry Ward Beecher gives to the young—we think it might fitly be taken by all—this sensible advice: "Use fiction as you would spices in your diet. No man takes a quart of cloves, nor extracts the crust, at a single meal. These things must be used with moderation to season one's food with, but they are not to be used alone; and so fictions, while they are not to be resorted to exclusively, may be used with discretion to season life with. If you find that using them brings you back to duty with more alacrity, with more cheer, and with more aptitude, if you find that it

makes you better in your relations to your fellow-men, then it does not hurt you, and you are at liberty to use them. But if you find that using them makes you morose; if you find that it gives you distaste for work; if you find that it inclines you to run into a hole that you may get away from your fellow-men; if you find that it makes you unkind, disliking, and selfish—then you may be sure that whether it injures any body else or not, it injures you."

An Example.

Buenaventura Baez, nominally President, was for many years the autocrat of San Domingo. He was raised to the Presidency with the almost unanimous consent of the whole people. He at once began to deal with the office and the country as if they were personal property of his own. The high posts of the Government he filled with members of his own family. Every relation of his, legitimate or illegitimate, at once became the recipient of a salary from the Treasury. Great dignities were bestowed on those who gave him presents. The revenues of the republic he treated as his own; and devoting himself assiduously to the task of building up a fortune for himself, he rapidly accumulated from public plunder large sums of money which he prudently invested in foreign lands. Finally he conceived the idea of an immense speculation from which colossal returns were to be realized for him and his associates. This enterprise was nothing less than the annexation of his country to the United States. President Grant entered into it with remarkable zeal; and there is no doubt that if it had been carried through, it would have made all who were more intimately concerned in it immensely rich. But it was broken down, and defeated by the independent press of the United States, and by the public excitement and indignation produced among the people of this country through the exposure of its nefarious features.

And now Baez has been turned out of the office which he thus perverted, and forced to flee from the country which he so long fleeced and misruled. We dare say that in the exile to which he has gone, he will find consolation enough in the enjoyment of the wealth he has got together; but his downfall and banishment should, nevertheless, afford a warning to all tenants of power who regard their own aggrandizement as the first object of their authority, and who foolishly imagine when they provide for their relations and their parasites at the public expense and make themselves rich upon the spoils of office, that justice and punishment will never reach them. The example of Baez should teach to them and to all the lesson that justice and punishment are certain to be executed upon corrupt and lawless rulers sooner or later, and that those who do not administer great public charges wisely and honestly, will at last be brought to abasement and disgrace.—N. Y. Sun.

The President in an Uncomfortable Position.

A gentleman prominent in railroad circles, and at present sojourning here, has just returned from Washington, which place he visited for the purpose of interviewing the President and ascertaining his exact policy with reference to the Louisiana case. A representative of the *Picayune* yesterday made inquiry touching the event, with the following result:

A.—I have been in Washington for the last three weeks. Things are assuming quite a complex shape there. Gen. Grant is in a very uncomfortable position. I called on him in company with Gen. Butler, Senators Sherman and Thurman, and a Mr. Meyer. Gen. Butler was our spokesman. He said in substance:

Mr. President, we have called upon you to ascertain what your policy is to be in relation to matters in Louisiana. Mr. Kellogg, as soon as he found himself finally seated, made repudiation of the State debt the feature of his administration. The people down there want to pay their honest obligations, and if let alone to govern themselves, they will. Mr. Kellogg, in his annual address to the Legislature, claims to have collected seven millions of taxes, and of that it takes three millions to pay the interest on the debt. What becomes of the other four millions? If only requires one million to run the great State of Massachusetts; certainly it cannot require four to run the little State of Louisiana. Mr. Kellogg has made a direct attempt to take our railroads from us, one of which is mainly owned by a firm who subscribed largely to aid in your reelection. Now, sir, we desire to know whether it is your policy to support this administration? If it is, let us know it.

Mr. Meyer then spoke up: "I represent the syndicate in Frankfort-on-the-Main, who hold eighty millions of United States bonds. We desire to be informed if you sanction the repudiation of the Louisiana debt. If so, Mr. President, we touch no

declined in advance to settle the internal squabbles of Mississippi. "This nursing of monstrosities," he nervously observes, "has nearly exhausted the life of the party." That there is some sincerity in these expressions was clearly shown the other day when he told Governor Davis that after approving the law under which the election was held, running for Governor and getting beaten, he might "to get out," and not to be clamoring to Washington for troops to keep the legal incumbent from taking his place. All reasonable people will be glad to see that the President shares the disgust they have long felt for that political system in the Gulf States, which consists, first, in using the Federal patronage to carry elections; second, when beaten, using Federal judges to declare the election illegal, and third, using Federal troops to keep out the opposition and put in the Administration candidates. It is a system which has had its nurse and protector in him exclusive. It is, as he justly states, a "monstrous" bantling and nobody but his evolutions in the Gulf States will grieve to learn that he proposes to withdraw its nourishment.—N. Y. Tribune.

TRICHINA SPIRALIS.

The Disease at Aurora, Ind.—Ten Persons Eat of Diseased Pork—What the Microscope Revealed—A Horrible Story.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 1.—Prof. Wm. Clendenin, who fills the chair of anatomy in the Miami Medical College of this city, returned to-day from a professional visit to Aurora, Ind., twenty-six miles below this city, on the Ohio River. The object of his visit was the investigation of several cases of trichina spiralis of recent occurrence in that place. The first victims were Mrs. Threnart, a German widow, and her three children, two boys aged seven and fourteen, and a girl aged ten years. Dr. Clendenin was interviewed by our special reporter to-day, and furnishes the facts.

It appears that Mrs. Threnart had two hogs killed for home consumption about four weeks ago, one of which had been sick after running in the streets a month or so before killing. The animal had what is called "droop." It was stiff in the limbs and lost its appetite, but, after dosing with sulphur and sweet milk, it recovered and fattened up. A quantity of sausage was made with the meat, and of this Mrs. Threnart and her children partook freely on last Monday. It was prepared and cooked in the usual way.

On Tuesday last the family took sick. They complained of a withering pain in the bowels—of being very tired and sore all over the surface of the body. Vomiting and diarrhoea set in, and the family physician was called. He thought the symptoms were those of typhoid fever, and treated accordingly. The illness of the mother and her children excited the sympathy of her neighbors, and they took it in turn to nurse them. Mrs. Buyer, wife of the Methodist minister, with her two children, the youngest only four years old, was the first nurse, and devoted herself exclusively to the Christian duty. She took up her abode in the sick house, and, when meal-time came, prepared and ate some of the sausage, as also did the youngest child. The other child would not touch it. On the next day, Thursday, Mrs. Buyer and her child were seized in the same manner as the victims she came to nurse, and still no suspicion was aroused as to the cause.

That evening, Miss Davis, aged nineteen, and Miss Mollenhoff, aged twenty-two, charming young women, came to nurse the sick, and at supper partook of the sausage and some of the fried meat. They were seized with pains in the stomach and bowels in an hour, and were deathly sick. An old woman prescribed hot whisky-punch, and made them drink it freely, which increased the vomiting. They are now convalescing. A lad named Kreiger, who brought kindling-wood to Mrs. Threnart's house, had supper, and is also down with the same sickness.

Finally, a Mrs. Ross came and ate also of the meat, and soon after took sick in the same manner as all the rest, but at once suspected the meat as the cause, and said so to the physician.

He called in Dr. Sutton, of the Health Department, and a scientific analysis of the sausage, cooked and raw, was made, upon which the startling fact was revealed that the meat was literally alive with the trichina spiralis. So tenacious is this little devil of life, that it was seen to survive the pickling process and the cooking of the meat. The entire carcass of the hog that had been sick was infected, not even the bones being free from the invasion. Under the microscope it looks like knots and coils of the common earth-worm, with very sharp or pointed extremities; and, while this is being written, a speck of flesh not larger than the head of a small pin is under view, and contains millions of the maggots, wiggling and twisting about, although totally invisible to the naked eye.

When Dr. Clendenin left Aurora last night all the patients, except the two young ladies, were still lying very ill.

The symptoms were alike in all—a peculiar paleness of the skin, a lid puffiness around the eyes, and the lower extremities swelled and swollen. They lie crouched up in bed with the shoulders drawn forward, and knees drawn up to the chin. There is a painful weakness in the limbs. It is painful to protrude the furred and thickened tongue. The voice is husky and changed in tone. There is diarrhoea, with a tendency to dysentery, thirst, complete loss of appetite, and a fever which increases toward night.

The oldest boy and the girl of Mrs. Threnart, and Mrs. Buyer, the minister's wife, who is a fine, healthy woman, will undoubtedly die, but some hopes are entertained that the other victims will survive.

The affair has created the greatest alarm and consternation in the community of Aurora, where there is a large German population, which lives on pork and other meat of the hog kind. A crowd of them invaded Dr. Sutton's room at the hotel, last evening, with pieces of pork, sausage and ham, to have them examined for fear of trichina, and public confidence has been so much shaken in pork as an article of food that the commodity is tabooed, and it is now a drug in the Aurora market.

—A Scranton dealer in hair oil, who sold in the principle of "no cure, no pay," as stated one of his bald-headed customers, and the latter demands a bald-headed ar, in order that he may be tried by his peers.